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NEW YORK

STATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

FOUNDED, FEBRUARY, 1884.

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MINUTES OF A CONVENTION

HELD IN THE CITY OF ALBANY,

February 4th and 6th, 1884,

AT WHICH THE

NEW YORK STATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

WAS ORGANIZED

ON A PERMANENT BASIS.

In compliance with an invitation issued during the last week of January, a number of members of the medical profession assembled in the parlors of the Delavan House, Albany, at 8.30 P.M., February 4, 1884.

After calling the roll, 76 being present (more entered the rooms later, making a total of about 100), the object of the convention was briefly stated by Dr. J. W. S. Gouley, of New York Co., as follows:

In view of the dissention which has been created in the Medical Society of the State of New York by the radical change made in its code of ethics, it was suggested that a convention be held on the day preceding the session of the State Society, to discuss the question of this change in all its aspects, and finally to take such action as the majority assembled should decide upon. Therefore it is, gentlemen, that you have been invited to meet here by the members of the profession who have signed the call for the convention, which is as follows:

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DEAR DOCTOR:

The undersigned, permanent members of, and delegates to, the Medical Society of the State of New York, request you to attend a meeting to be held in the parlors of the Delavan House, Albany, on Monday evening, February 4th, at 8.30 o'clock, to take into consideration the question of the Code of Ethics which will come up before that Society on the day following.

I. H. Abell, P. M.
John G. Adams, Del.
C. S. Allen, Del.
H. B. Allen, Del.
L. Barton, P. M.
R. B. Bontecou, P. M.
M. H. Burton, P. M.
Arch. M. Campbell, Del.
W. N. Coit, Del.
I. G. Collins, Del.
W. S. Cooper, P. M.
A. J. Dallas, P. M.
H. D. Didama, Ex President.
E. D. Ferguson, P. M.
Austin Flint, P. M.,
Austin Flint, Jr., Del.
C. C. F. Gay, P. M.
J. W. S. Gouley, P. M.
Wm. Govan, P. M.
Caleb Green, P. M.
J. C. Greene, P. M.
Desault Guernsey, P. M.
W. H. Helm, P. M.
H. C. Hendrick, P. M.
John H. Hinton, P. M.
Geo. G. Hopkins, Del.
B. L. Hovey, P. M.
Sam'l T. Hubbard, P. M.
Jos. C. Hutchinson, Ex Pres.
N. C. Husted, P. M.
Frederick Hyde, Ex Pres.
H. H. Langworthy, P. M.
Chas. A. Leale, Del.
E. M. Lyon, P. M.
E. M. Moore, Ex Pres.
C. E. Nichols, P. M.
A. Pollard, P. M.
Thos. F. Rochester, Ex Pres.
John D. Rushmore, P. M.
Conant Sawyer, Del.
Avery Segur, P. M.
W. P. Seymour, P. M.
E. R. Squibb, Ex Pres.
Ely Van De Warker, Del.
R. H. Ward, P. M.
Francis V. White, Del.
Chas. S. Wood, P. M.
R. M. Wyckoff, P. M.,
and others.

Dr. H. D. DIDAMA, of Onondaga County, was called to the chair, and Dr. CHS. S. WARD, of New York County, was appointed Secretary.

On taking the chair, Dr. DIDAMA said :

As I understand it, the object of this conference is to exchange opinions regarding the proper course to be pursued by the adherents of the National Code of Ethics.

I need not remind you that, unkindly, unfairly, and in all probability by a pre-arranged plan, certain men grabbed the State Society two years ago.

The catalogues, prepared with immense labor and the greatest care by our New York City brethren, show that the advocates of the "New Code" misrepresent the profession of this State.

Of course, the vast majority of the profession can protect themselves. They will not submit to the rule of a minority, whose leaders are unscrupulous. They will not consent to be cut off from affiliation with their brethren outside of this State. They will not tamely submit to have the great State of New York without a representation in the National Association, of which one of her most worthy sons is the honored President. If they can obtain their rights within the State Society, well and good ; if not, they will form a new society.

What course shall be pursued ? Shall we go into the meeting to-morrow night, present our facts and figures, appeal to the love of fair play which dwells in the heart of every decent physician, ask the minority to put things back as they were before the vote in 1882, and restore the harmony which once existed and avoid a rupture which is otherwise inevitable, a rupture whose far-reaching consequences are not pleasant to contemplate ; or shall we at once, without an effort to secure justice or to give the minority an opportunity to recede from their hasty and miserable course, proceed to organize a new society which shall be in accord with our brethren everywhere outside of this State ? If we pursue the former course, we may, and probably shall, fail ; but we shall throw upon the minority-faction the responsibility for the rupture, and we shall not be accused of precipitate and unnecessary action.

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One other matter is worthy of consideration. The remarkable activity of a few leaders of the minority is well known. They have been aided by certain medical journals in New York and elsewhere. These journals, in violation of all sense of propriety, have received our money for their support and have then, week after week, thrust their misrepresentations, their boasts, their puerile arguments, and their pitiful sophistries into our unwilling faces.

I need not intimate that there is a remedy for this evil also; that there are medical journals, able and deserving our support and disposed to give us at least civil treatment.

The freest expression of opinion is now invited.

The following telegram from Dr. JOHN P. GRAY, of Oneida Co., was read: "Received the circular invitation. Sorry I cannot be with you this evening, or this week, to join you and other brethren in efforts to uphold the dignity and unity of the profession in regard to the National Code and the medical educational institutions of the State."

The following telegram was also received: "Personal sickness detains me. Do not give up the National Code." Signed, J. H. ORTON, Binghampton, Broome Co.

A letter was received from Dr. C. C. F. GAY, of Erie Co., saying that he was prevented from attending this meeting by sickness in his family.

Dr. GOULEY then rose to make a report of the canvass of the State, which has lately been completed, and said:

Mr. Chairman and gentlemen—In order to bring before you the subject which we are to consider to-night, let me crave your indulgence while I give you the results of a twelve-months' careful study of the whole question, and also a synopsis of the canvass which has been made under the auspices of the organization to uphold the National Code of Ethics,—a body composed of representative men. This organization, as you know, has taken measures to ascertain the will of the members of the State Society and also of the profession throughout this State; and to that end an extensive correspondence has been entered into, canvassers have been employed and circulars of enquiry

(containing these three questions: 1st, are you in favor of the National Code? 2d, the "New Code"? 3d, or no code?) have been sent to all the physicians of this State whose names and addresses could be obtained, the number being upwards of five thousand.

These names were all classified by counties and printed for distribution, with a view to corrections and additions and the reaffirmation of his position or vote by each physician or by others authorized to do so. In accordance with this plan, the following circular was printed on the first page of the proof:

"NEW YORK, Nov. 15, 1883.

DEAR DOCTOR:—This proof, which shows the vote of the profession on the various codes of medical ethics, is forwarded to you for correction, if correction be needed. Please to observe:

1. If your name has been placed under the wrong heading. *

2. If it has been credited to the wrong county or to more than one county.

3. If it has appeared more than once in the same county-list.

4. If it has been wrongly spelled.

5. If its initials are incorrect.

6. If you know of names that have been omitted in any of the several county-lists, give each name in full, P. O. address, town and county.

7. If you know of any practitioner, whose name appears in this catalogue, who has not received it.

8. If you know of any to be dead whose name is in this catalogue, give the date of his death.

The above are suggestions of possible errors. If you find such, or any other mistakes, be so kind as to communicate the fact without delay, by letter or postal card, to the Corresponding Secretary, Dr. J. W. S. GOULEY, 324 Madison Avenue, New York City.

You may keep this proof as a useful register, to date, of the vote of the profession on the codes of ethics.

In sending corrections, please give your P. O. address, town and county.

If no response is received from you in the course of ten days from the above date, it will be inferred that you have no corrections to offer, and your name will stand as it now is in the forthcoming issue of the corrected catalogue.

Corrections will be thankfully received also from Secretaries of County Societies.

COUNCIL:

Abram Du Bois,	Austin Flint,	Austin Flint, Jr.,
J. W. S. Gouley,	John H. Hinton,	Samuel T. Hubbard,
William T. Lusk,	Samuel S. Purple,	T. Gaillard Thomas.

A copy of this proof will be sent for correction to every member of the profession whose name and address are printed in the catalogue."

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* The headings are, National Code, New Code, No Code, Unclassified, Uncommitted. The unclassified are those who have been heard from but have not signified exactly where they stand. The uncommitted have not been heard from.

Thus, every one interested in this question had ten (10) days' time to make such corrections as he might wish to make, in all fairness. Therefore, those who have failed to offer corrections should not find fault with the corrected catalogue which was issued a few days ago. The corrections received were scrupulously noted, and all vouchers have been filed. Let us now look at the figures as they stand in the proof and in the corrected catalogue.

The proof is found to contain the names of	5,219
Since the appearance of the proof, new names have come in to the number of	67
Which number, added to the original, gives a total of	5,286
Since the beginning of the canvass there have died	83
	5,203
A number of names have been stricken off the proof, the majority on account of removal from the State, a few at their own request, and others by request of members of both parties for reasons which seemed fair and which I need not here state.	
The number of names thus stricken off is	201
Leaving a total (which is given in the corrected catalogue) of	5,002
Number of those who have not expressed their preference.	1,142
Total number of votes recorded	3,860

The recorded votes are as follows:

For the National Code	2,547
For the "New Code"	1,040
For no code	239
Unclassified	34
Total	3,860

It is evident from these figures that there is a majority for the National Code over the whole number of committed and uncommitted. That there is a majority of more than two-

thirds for the National Code over the "New Code," and a nearly two-thirds majority for the National Code over the "New Code," no code and unclassified combined.

It is now proper that you should know how stands the vote in the State Society; and here let me say that, although we have a majority, our adherents will do as they have done before—stay away—and we shall be out-voted. I doubt much if on Tuesday night we poll more than one hundred votes. According to the Transactions of 1883, the State Society has thirty-three retired members, who are not entitled to vote, and should have 386 voting members and delegates; but I cannot count more than 382.

Of these there are for the National Code	193
For the "New Code"	134
For no code	19
Uncommitted	36
	382

In spite of our manifest majorities, the "New Code" party is still endeavoring to make it appear that we are in the minority, although they have had ample opportunity to make corrections in our catalogue, a copy of the proof having been mailed to every one whose name and address appeared therein.

Now, gentlemen, that you have before you these facts and figures, I leave you to decide what measures it may be wise for this assembly of representative men to take.

After some remarks upon the report just given, Dr. E. D. Ferguson, of Rensselaer Co., moved that all the members and delegates present in Albany, who are in favor of the re-enactment of the National Code, be requested to attend the meeting of the State Society on Tuesday evening, for the purpose of protesting, by their vote, against the action taken by the Society in substituting the "New" for the National Code, and of endeavoring to secure the re-enactment of the National Code.

Dr. Thos. F. Rochester, of Erie Co., seconded the resolution, and said that the members and delegates would fail in their duty if they did not present this protest.

Dr. Austin Flint, Jr., of New York Co., said :

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen of the Convention—It is more than a year since I have publicly spoken to an audience of friends on the questions which have at last divided the medical profession of the State of New York. As you all well know, thus far the battle-field in the warfare against the honor and dignity of the profession has been mainly in the City of New York. In the City of New York, the conspiracy, which has brought about the deplorable conflict that has been forced upon us, had its inception. The attack upon the most sacred traditions of our profession was there made with a malignant rancor that can only be fully appreciated by those who have been personally involved in this unhappy contest. I say it in all modesty, but we of the City of New York come before you as veterans from the front, bearing scars. If we venture to offer suggestions with regard to future action, if we beg you to learn a lesson from our own experience, it is because we are unhappily too familiar with the arrogance and the unscrupulous methods of our enemies within the profession. Our experience teaches us that but one course is now open to those who are unwilling to remain in the false and humiliating position in which we are placed. The proper course is for us to organize a new State Association, to be composed exclusively of those who refuse to countenance professional relations with irregular practitioners.

We all know the signification of the term irregular practitioner of medicine. It is not necessary to define it. We all know that no physician can be true to his calling and manhood, and yet be willing to meet as a professional brother a charlatan or one who practices medicine under a dishonest designation.

The conspiracy which culminated in the adoption of the "New Code" by the State Society first made its appearance in the medical law of 1880, although its secret history is of a much earlier date. Many practitioners of more or less standing in the profession have long chafed under the restraints imposed upon them by our code of ethics. It is an almost unavoidable logical conclusion that the prominent advocates of the "New Code" were not content to confine themselves to consultation

with their "regular" brethren, but yearned for the temporal advantages to be gained by consulting with any and all practitioners who could or would bring them patients. It seemed easy to bring this about if they could find a cloak for their action in the laws of the State, and could assume that they were not at liberty to refuse to consult with any practitioner formally recognized by such laws. It became necessary, then, to be able to point to a distinct definition of a legally qualified practitioner. This they were enabled to do by referring to the law of 1880, which was drawn by one who is now an earnest supporter of the "New Code." By the law of 1880, certain irregular practitioners, after complying with the prescribed conditions of registration, are recognized as legally qualified medical men. This being accomplished, the "New Code," which permits consultations with all legally qualified practitioners, was forced through the State Society, by methods which are known to us all. In my belief, the conspiracy, from its inception many years before 1880 to its culmination in the existing division of the profession of the State, has been carried on mainly in the City of New York; and this has been the work of a few bold and active men.

The profession of the City of New York began to realize the enormity of the action taken by the State Society, at a meeting of the Medical Society of the County of New York, held a few weeks before the meeting of the State Society, in 1883. The question came up at this meeting of the County Society; and the leader of the "New Code" movement, supported by a large number of adherents who blindly followed his dictation, displayed a degree of arrogance and assumption that has seldom, if ever, been witnessed in such a body. Many voices were raised in defense of the honor of the profession, but they were unheeded. One of the most eminent men in our ranks, respected alike for his age, attainments, and the purity of his professional and private life, was merely tolerated in making his protest; while the curt and peremptory orders of the "New Code" leader, to vote in a certain way on each question raised, were received with stormy applause and were implicitly obeyed. The disgust and alarm of the upholders of the National Code, however, was brought to a culmination by the

appearance of the President of the New York Academy of Medicine, who, in a long speech, advocated the breaking down of the time-honored barriers which have heretofore separated the regular profession from charlatans.

Following this meeting of the County Society, three physicians of the City of New York, after consulting together with regard to the proper action to be taken, associated with themselves six others, the nine constituting the council of an organization "to uphold the National Code of Ethics." The Council afterward established what was called the "Central Organization," under the direction of which the entire regular profession of the State was carefully canvassed, with results that have been reported to you this evening. Subsequently, at a meeting of the County Society, called to fill vacancies in the number of delegates to the State Society, we were able to elect three delegates pledged to uphold the National Code; and from this we took no little courage.

Our next move was an endeavor to save to the regular profession the New York Academy of Medicine. Although the Academy has in force, as one of its by-laws, which every member has in writing pledged himself in honor to uphold, the National Code of Ethics, the public appearance of its President in support of the "New Code," and the presentation as candidates for fellowship of physicians known to be actively opposed to its constitution and by-laws, excited among its Fellows who remained loyal the gravest apprehensions. It is unnecessary for me to give more than a brief sketch of what was done in the Academy. At a stated meeting, resolutions were introduced and carried, re-affirming the by-laws and instructing the Committee on Admissions to do their duty and to report for election as Fellows, no candidates known to be in opposition to the Code of Ethics of the Academy. These resolutions were violently attacked by certain members of the opposition, who undoubtedly saw in them a serious obstacle to the success of the plot to revolutionize the Academy as they had revolutionized the State and County Societies. They professed to be unable to see the inconsistency and dishonor of new members signing a pledge to support a constitution and by-laws to which they were known to be actively opposed. At

a subsequent meeting, however, having in their interest the President and most of the officers, they rescinded these resolutions, in violation of all recognized rules of order, as well as of the special rules of the Academy. The rulings of the President on this occasion need little comment. They were unfair and unparliamentary and simply illustrated the desperate methods which the conspirators are always prepared to adopt. I believe the action rescinding these resolutions to be null and void, and that it will be so decided in due time.

The next conflict was at the annual meeting for the election of officers of the Medical Society of the County of New York. Here the issue was sharply made in the nomination of candidates. This meeting was the largest ever held by the Society. Just before the election of officers, the names of upward of eighty new members were proposed. A motion was promptly made to lay these nominations on the table until after the election. The motion to lay on the table was decided by the President to be out of order! Not content with this extraordinary and unnecessary ruling—for the motion would undoubtedly have been lost—the eighty odd candidates voted for their own admission. The "New Code" officers were then elected by a majority considerably in excess of eighty votes.

The loyal members of the profession in the County of New York, having thus exhausted all proper means of resistance in the existing Societies, and with an untarnished record as regards the methods employed by them in the contest, have organized on a permanent basis, the New York County Medical Association, composed exclusively of those who uphold the National Code of Ethics.

To-night we should organize a New York State Medical Association. The issue has been forced upon us. We stand in the presence of the actual fact of a divided profession. The State Society and the Society of the County of New York have seceded from the regular profession of the United States. We made no movement looking to the formation of a loyal State Association until the most vigorous efforts to redeem the existing Societies had signally and hopelessly failed. We are now cast out of fellowship with the regular profession of this great country, as represented in the American Medical Association and in

the Medical Societies of other States. We must redeem the State of New York. There remains but one course to pursue, and that is to form an Association of our own. The bitter fight, the disgraceful spectacle of a contest between members of a devoted and honorable profession, are things of the past. The war is ended. Let us organize and live together in peace, working hand in hand for the advancement of the science of medicine. Let the men who are so blind or misguided as to think their course is right, or who cannot resist the temptation to take tribute from those who persist in supporting the enemies of truth and of our universal science of medicine, go their own way and consult on terms of equality with any and all legally qualified practitioners of medicine, whatever form of charlatanism they may assume !

I hope, Mr. Chairman, that a New York State Medical Association will be organized to-night, in affiliation with the regular profession of the United States ; that the existing County Societies whose membership is loyal will put themselves at once in affiliation with the new State Association ; and that, in Counties in which the existing Societies cannot be brought in bodily, new Associations will be promptly organized, to be composed exclusively of members of the profession who uphold the National Code of Ethics.

While holding to these views, I am cordially in favor of the resolution offered by Dr. Ferguson, simply in order that we may put ourselves on record in the State Society, as I believe, for the last time.

Dr. C. G. Bacon, of Oswego Co., was in favor of Dr. Ferguson's resolution, and of continued efforts from year to year until success should be achieved.

Dr. Ferguson, with the consent of Dr. Rochester, temporarily withdrew his resolution.

Dr. Austin Flint, of New York Co., after stating that he thought it improbable that a two-thirds vote could be obtained in the State Society in favor of re-enacting the National Code of Ethics, and that consequently the time had arrived for the formation of a new State Association, introduced the following preamble and resolution :

The following facts and remarks are submitted as a preamble to a resolution: At the annual meeting of the Medical Society of the State of New York in 1881, a committee was appointed to present to the Society, at its next annual meeting, "suggestions" in regard to changes in the code of medical ethics.* Without having brought the subject to the attention of the medical profession throughout the State, by means of discussions in medical journals and local societies, this committee reported, not "suggestions," but a "New Code" of ethics as a substitute for the code which was adopted by the Society in 1850. A large part of the latter code was omitted in the new code, and a radical change as regards professional relations with irregular practitioners was introduced. This new code was adopted by a two-thirds vote, fifty-two voting in the affirmative and eighteen in the negative, the number of voters thus being seventy. It is at once evident that, under the circumstances, this number of voters could not be regarded as fairly representing the sentiments of the Society; and still less could it be considered as representing the sentiments of the medical profession of the State. The Society, however, at that meeting, against the earnest solicitations of members who were present, refused to defer the action just stated.

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* The subject referred to was presented by the committee on the President's address, on the second day, at the morning session, 1881, of the Medical Society of the State of New York. A part of the report of this committee is now quoted from the Transactions of 1881, p. 25.

* * * "3d. Relating to such changes in the code of ethics of the State Society as shall bring it into harmony with the present and changed condition of the profession."

"The Committee present that this suggestion of the President opens up an immense range of inquiry, and do not feel that it would be competent or prudent to make at this time any radical propositions, but the Committee offer the following resolution for the consideration of the Society:

"*Resolved*, That a special Committee of Five be appointed by the President, to be designated a 'Committee on the Code of Ethics,' whose duty it shall be to consider the whole question of desirable changes in the code, and who shall present to the Society, at the session of 1882, such suggestions on this subject as their observations and investigations may direct."

Signed, ALEX. HUTCHINS,
HARVEY JEWETT,
SAMUEL G. WOLCOTT.

This action of the Society was received with not less disapprobation than surprise, and was deemed of such great importance that pains were taken to ascertain the opinions of members of the profession throughout the State. The State has been thoroughly and fairly canvassed; and the result shows a large majority in favor of upholding the code of ethics for which the "New Code" was substituted.

The "New Code" in effect removes the barrier dividing members of the regular profession from irregular practitioners; and, in this point of view, it is the sentiment of a large majority of the medical profession of the State, that the adoption of the "New Code" will prove greatly detrimental to the honor, the interests and the usefulness of the profession.

An effect of the adoption of the "New Code" is the disfranchisement of the Society from its affiliation with the American Medical Association and other associations at home and abroad. It is the sentiment of a large majority of the members of the medical profession of the State, that this effect is an evil of no small importance.

Another effect, and an evil of great magnitude, is a division into two parties of the members of the State Society and of the medical profession of the State. This division actually exists; and it must continue if the action of the State Society be not reversed, inasmuch as disapproval of the action involves principles which carry with them moral obligations.

The reversal of this action, two years having elapsed, has not been effected; and, owing to the constitution of the membership of the State Society and the necessity for a two-thirds majority in order to secure this end, it does not seem probable that the action will be speedily rescinded.

In view of the foregoing facts, an unavoidable conclusion is that, among the delegates and permanent members of the Medical Society of the State of New York, there cannot be the harmony and co-operation which are essential in order to carry out the objects of the Society, so long as an irreconciliable conflict of opinion on such an important matter as medical ethics shall continue. The organization of a distinct State Association has become a necessity.

A distinct association is demanded in order that a large majority of the members of the medical profession in the State of New York shall not be placed in a false position—disloyal to the National Code of Ethics.

It is demanded, by a sense of respect in the minds of the majority of the members of the medical profession in the State, for the status of legitimate medicine.

It is demanded by a due regard for the public good as dependent on the character and usefulness of the medical profession.

Justice, to the majority of the members of the medical profession of the State in respect of the right to be represented by delegates in our National Medical Association, and in other associations, demands it.

It is demanded as the only mode now available of securing to the majority of the members of the medical profession of the State the advantages of an association composed of members united by community of sentiment in matters relating to the honor, the interests, and the usefulness of our profession.

Guided, therefore, by our convictions of duty, deploring the dissention which has been most unwisely and needlessly brought about in this State, appreciating fully the importance of the step to be taken, and regretting its necessity, be it

Resolved: That the members of the medical profession of the State of New York, here convened, do now unite in forming an organization to be known as the NEW YORK STATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

Dr. FREDERICK HYDE, of Cortland Co., said:

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen—I rise to second the motion for the adoption of the preamble and resolution just offered by Dr. Flint, believing that the paper embodies most clearly the points which this representative body of the medical profession desires most earnestly to consider:

First: Whether we shall continue our associate relations with the New York State Medical Society, since a minority of its members, under the shield of a two-thirds rule of a vote obtained in a meeting of the Society of a smaller attendance than

had occurred for several years, repudiated and still continue to denounce the code of ethics adopted by the American Medical Association in 1847.

Since the vote taken by the Society at its annual meeting in 1883, repeating its repudiation of the Ethical Code of the American Medical Association, for myself I have seen but one safe, one honorable course to pursue, which is to organize a *Voluntary State Medical Association.*

This course would continue our representation, as it formerly existed, in the American Medical Association, giving to us the full benefits of the united learning, wisdom, and labors of the whole medical profession, which is already national.

Shall we join with the adherents of the so-called "New Code," in severing our union with an organization which proved the opening of a new era in developing the power of associated action, as seen in the unification of the medical profession of the United States?

The history of our National Society proves that the first words spoken or written upon the subject of its organization were within the Medical Society of the State of New York. When its organic structure was finished and it received its title, all its signers freely pledged their honor with a sacredness of purpose not always realized when acting under statutory enactments.

We believe that in the councils of a united, properly educated medical profession is a fitter place for the correction of errors of plan, or revision of its ethical enactments, and the creation and maintenance of the standards of professional attainments, than in a seceded section, with a code so pliant as to permit the freest intercourse with all sorts of doctors, even within the sacredness of the council room of the sick, because the levelling process of statute enactments declares them legal practitioners.

Is it not true that a large majority of the physicians of this State are unwilling to rest tamely under the imputation of carrying on a war against the united profession of the whole country, because it respects the ethics of the American Medical Association ?

Why are some of the counties of our once united State Medical Society, embracing an important membership always punctual and always influential, to be absent from its meeting to-morrow ?

I can speak for the section of the State in which I have the honor to claim a professional home, that they are heartily tired of a contest which was brought upon them wrongfully.

They are anxious to see, without more loss of time and continual humiliation, a new State Voluntary Organization in harmony with the parent Association and the avowed object and prestige of the New York State Society at its formation, with the added incentive to young men to become its fellows at once if worthy, instead of passing a probation which may admit them when gray-headed, or still leave them vaguely expectant.

We declare that a course of conduct which disintegrates the medical profession is wrong ; that it weakens the power of the profession to elevate itself by improved methods of conducting medical education, which to-day is the desideratum above all others.

I ask you : Has not the time come for organizing a new voluntary Medical Association in the State of New York, on such a basis as will keep us in honorable alliance with the whole profession and redeem us from the charge of having seceded from the National Association ?

Pardon me, gentlemen, for my attachment to the American Medical Association; as I had the honor of putting my signature to its constitution, by-laws, and code of ethics, on the day of its formation, and as I continue a permanent member up to this hour !

Would that the spirit of our gathering to-night might visit the great number of our professional brethren who are waiting for the key-note of a United Profession !

Our words of greeting to them are, an undivided medical profession on this continent under the folds of one flag !

Gentlemen—Let us, before this meeting adjourns, adopt provisional measures for the formation of a State Association of the Empire State, which shall restore it to its once proud posi-

tion in an united medical profession in line with her sister States.

But for the large, loyal permament membership of the American Medical Association and the invincible purpose of the County Medical Societies of our State to be represented in the councils of the Association, our meeting to-night would not have been graced by the presence of the distinguished and renowned President of the American Medical Association, Dr. Austin Flint, Sen.

While engaged in the deliberations of this evening, a crowd of hallowed memories are here, reminding us of our service of delightful fellowship in both the State and National Societies. These sacred associations speak thrillingly to us of duties we owe to our exalted profession, that its grandest mission may be achieved.

Dr. E. M. Moore, of Monroe Co., said :

Mr. Chairman—I cannot believe that the time has arrived for the formation of an association separated from the State Society. In a matter like this, impatience is a fault. We should bide the time which is necessary to have a full expression of opinion from the whole State. You have already polled the State and find those of our opinions in a large majority. I have ever a faith that questions before the people are decided rightly. If they are incorrectly determined to-day, the decision is not final. Consciousness of wrong will never allow the matter to remain undisturbed. Medical men in remote districts have not yet made their influence felt. Delegates are elected for four years and have often misrepresented their constituencies. We should be patient and try again and again until a sufficient time has elapsed to collect the correct opinion of the profession over the whole State. If we gain at the coming election an increase of votes as compared with the last one, my opinion is that we should renew our resolution for a vote the succeeding year and so on until there can be no question with reference to the status of the profession in the State. The right will in the end prevail over the wrong in this unhappy contest in the profession as it did in the great contest on the subject of slavery, which many of us remember. Gentlemen must recollect that New

York City is not the State of New York. The facility for coming together in a great city has, I fear, precipitated hasty action. I am, therefore, Sir, in favor of postponing the organization of the association until Wednesday morning, at which time we shall be better informed and therefore better prepared with reference to our future action.

Dr. GOULEY hoped that the preamble and resolution would be adopted to-night, and said that the object of such action is simply to save time; that he had come to Albany to assist in the formation of the new association, and not to attend the meeting of the State Society; and that if no association is to be formed he would prefer to leave by the next train. If action is taken to-night, of course it will not be binding in the event of the re-enactment of the National Code; but of the failure to secure such re-enactment he felt that there is not the shadow of a doubt. If it is decided that we should all attend the meeting on Tuesday night, he would abide by this decision and go and record his vote.

Dr. ROCHESTER remarked that he was very glad to think that there was a prospect of a medical association, which would be strictly voluntary without any hampering by State legislation. There might, however, be wisdom in considering what would be the effect of sundering one's connection with a County Society. In Erie County, it is necessary for all regular physicians to join the County Medical Society or to give early notice of their intention to do so. Otherwise, members of that society are not allowed to consult with them, and if they attempt to practice, the censors of the society are ordered to proceed against them, no matter where their diploma comes from or by whom countersigned. It is also necessary for physicians to perfect their membership in the County Society before they can become members of the City Medical Association. Now the advocates of the "New Code" not only table all remonstrances addressed by the County Societies to the State Society, but the Chairman of the "New Code" Committee, Dr. Wey, of Elmira, pronounces all such petitions as rebellious; says that all the County Societies must give in their adhesion to the "New Code," and in case they do not, advises the State Society to proceed against them for contumacy. Dr. Rochester said he

had not much fear of the effect of such threatened proceedings, but thought it well to take their possibility into consideration. For his part, he should in future have very little to do with State or County Societies, and was entirely in favor of forming a New York State Medical Association.

Dr. C. G. Pomeroy, of Wayne Co., would not consult with irregular practitioners, legalized or not, and favored action to-night.

Dr. Ely Van de Warker, of Onondaga Co., said:

Certain issues growing out of this contest in the State Society must be grappled fearlessly, for they are inevitable. Peace can never be restored. We know this to-night just as well as we shall know it Wednesday morning. We shall go into the contest in the State Society on Tuesday night simply for form's sake and without a hope that we shall reverse the policy of the Society; therefore I can see no reason to delay the preliminary formation of the new State Association.

Another thing which appears to me just as certain to grow out of this division is this: unless the unscrupulous minority which controls the State Society is made up of brag and bluster, they must go on with the work. Their aggressive policy must extend to the County Societies. It is one thing, by the preponderating influence of three great county organizations, to be able to control the State Society; it will be another thing to invade each county medical society, and coerce them all into conformity to the new order of things. To make the "New Code" the medical law of the land they must do this. To allow each county medical society to quietly exist with the code of the American Medical Association as a part of its organic law is to admit cowardice, defeat, and a cringing fear of the storm they have raised. To do less than this will make them the laughing-stock of the world and an object of contempt of all right-thinking men. They cannot go back, the day of strife is yet before them, as they will find out, and they must meet it. For this, let us prepare, let us fore-arm, let us prepare here in this great central association and make a home for those county medical societies that will resist coercion! Here they can come and find comfort and protection. We owe them this protection, and we shall do less than our duty if we neglect the opportunity.

In reply to Dr. Moore, I must steal some of his thunder. It is a very grand idea that right will live down wrong, but if right is going to thus live and conquer, it must do so by moral weapons. It will not do to stand upon this theory and do nothing. He has spoken of the great anti-slavery contest as an instance in which a terrible wrong was lived down, as though some quiet and inscrutable force did this. But how was it done ? This survival of right over wrong was the result of men banding together in a great central association, bringing scattered forces to forces, and thus becoming a great moral power. The anti-slavery advocates did not attempt to advance their cause by sending delegates to the National Whig conventions or to the Democratic conventions, where they would have been treated with something like the bluster and bravado that has been measured out to us ; but they banded together and developed forces that in the end accomplished a great moral revolution. I have to thank Dr. Moore for an apt illustration. With our delegates in the old society we are powerless ; with a clear and undisputed majority of thousands scattered among the county societies, we have as yet been unable to do anything ; but by cementing this great majority in a central organization and fusing together our scattered forces, we shall create a quiet but irresistible moral power that, as a final result, will conquer. To me it is evident that we must not postpone the organization of this association for a single hour.

Dr. FLINT, Jr., said :

Mr. Chairman—I am opposed to any postponement of the provisional organization of a State Medical Association. I am discouraged and heart-sick to see a disposition on the part of any member of this convention to delay action. I have already seen defeat and disaster follow a policy of delay and the advocacy of temporizing measures. In my opinion, if we fail to make a provisional organization this evening, we are lost. The contest has already produced personal enmities that will never be healed and has broken up life-long friendships. As I stand before you now, I think I can hear the jeers and taunts with which we shall be greeted if it should occur that we separate to-night without forming our loyal organization. We have been told that the profession is not with us ; and we are

now in convention for the purpose of making an emphatic denial of that charge. If any one present imagine that those who have captured the State Society will fail to carry out their purposes to the end, he cannot have appreciated the inexorable logic of past events. I, for one, shall never consent to remain in fellowship with those who are striving and will continue to strive to break down the barriers which have so long separated us from quacks. In the old Societies, these men will always be found, and they can never be repressed. The time has come, in my opinion, to inaugurate a new era of peace and good-will. This is now demanded by the majority of the profession of the State and by our brethren in sister States and in the National Association. I am confident that we can best uphold the honor and the legitimate interests of the profession by organizing, now and here, the New York State Medical Association.

Dr. W. P. Seymour, of Rensselaer Co., favored the preamble and resolution, the principles of which would eventually triumph.

Dr. G. W. Cooke, of Ulster Co., was uncompromisingly in favor of immediate adoption of the preamble and resolution as the strongest protest that could be made against the position in which the State Society had been placed, and thought that action should be taken now or never.

Dr. Ferguson spoke for the preample and resolution, and moved that they be adopted to-night, but that such adoption should be in force only in case the State Society shall fail on Tuesday evening to re-enact the National Code, otherwise the action to-night to be void. He also called attention to the fact that the formation of this Association does not debar any member from continuing his connection with the State Society, provided his interests or the interests of the profession make such a continuation of membership or delegateship desirable.

Dr. M. W. Townsend, of Genessee Co., moved that Dr. Flint's preamble and resolution be laid on the table until Wednesday.

The motion to lay on the table resulted in a tie,—29 for, 29 against.

Dr. GILLIS, of Franklin Co., thought no action should be taken until after an appeal to the State Society.

Dr. J. C. GREENE, President of the Erie Co. Medical Society.

Mr. Chairman—The motion of Dr. Townsend to table the preamble and resolution of Dr. Flint meets with my hearty approval. As a member of the State Society from the County of Erie, and a representative of this County as its President, I am in favor of the resolution to table, for I think a great effort should be made to harmonize the existing factions in the profession and put an end to all strife and disturbance. Although elected as a National Code man, I think precipitate action in this matter unwise and to be avoided. Now, from my standpoint, I can see only one method for us to adopt to-night, and it is to thoroughly canvass this question pro and con, but we should defer action until the vote has been taken in the State Society. I am sure my coustituents will expect my vote and my influence to be on the side of union and harmony, if such can be obtained. It is to be hoped that the sense of propriety and a desire to be in affiliation with the American Medical Association and through it with the other State Societies, as well as the medical societies of the civilized world, will induce the advocates of the "New Code" to rescind the action of 1882, and thereby restore the State Medical Society to its normal relation with other societies, and thus give it back all its lost prestige and glory.

Now sir, if this result is obtained by to-morrow's vote, we shall have no use for Dr. Flint's preamble and resolution.

Mr. Chairman : It has been said on this floor that we of the western portion of the State know very little of the obloquy that the advocates of the National Code have had to endure in the city of New York from some of the "New Code" adherents. We know that many of the gentlemen present have stood manfully and endeavored by argument and persuasion to avert this great calamity that has overtaken our time-honored Society. We thank you for it, we honor you for the bold stand you have taken to uphold the dignity and honor of the profession. We have heard something, and read much, about the action of a few designing men who planned and carried into execution the

demoralization of the Medical Society of the State of New York, by adopting what they term the "New Code," which really means no code. Now we wish to see for ourselves what the "New Code" men propose to do by their vote to-morrow.

If they still persist in their suicidal course as regards this great question at issue, and we are again out-voted, then I shall be in favor of Dr. Flint's preamble and resolution.

Dr. D. GUERNSEY, of Dutchess Co., said:

Mr. Chairman—Before the vote is again taken I desire to say a few words in favor of Dr. Flint's resolution. I am fully in accord with Dr. Moore, that if we can restore the National Code of Ethics this year, or the next, or in the next five years, it would be unwise to form a new State Association. Do the facts warrant us in believing that this can be done? Two years ago a minority of fifty-two members of the New York State Medical Society, although constituting at the time a two-thirds majority of the members present, abolished the National Code of Medical Ethics, and adopted the "New Code"; this, to say the least, was a great surprise to most of the members of the Society who uphold the National Code, as it was supposed that no change would be made that would in the least impair the spirit or effectiveness of the National Code. They were urged to delay action until a full expression of the views and wishes of the Society could be obtained. This they refused; and the "New Code" was adopted, as I have stated. No one for a moment believes—they do not believe it themselves—that if full notice had been given that at that meeting they were about to adopt a "New Code" of ethics differing so widely from the one under which the Society had so long flourished and grown up to its present position of honor and usefulness, they could have obtained the necessary two-thirds vote. A careful canvass of the delegates and members of the Society shows that at present there are 193 members for the National Code, and 134 for the "New Code" and 19 for No Code. With such figures, I do not believe that we can restore the National Code. I am willing, if thought best, to make one more effort, and then, having placed ourselves on record, I do not think it wise to keep up the fight year after year. We are opposed to the "New Code." We are in favor of the National Code. Let us form an association of our

own, send delegates to the American Medical Association, and place ourselves again in line with our medical brethren throughout the Union.

Dr. GOULEY urged speedy action, because, he said, there is not the least chance that the National Code of Ethics will be re-enacted by the Medical Society of the State of New York as long as a two-thirds majority is required. There is not a two-thirds majority; and he did not believe such a majority could be obtained in five years or more. Besides, even if the National-Code party were to prevail, it would be impossible for the two parties to work harmoniously together; there could never be that peace and good fellowship which are so much to be desired in all medical societies. These two parties cannot now, and probably never will agree. The best course, therefore, to be pursued, is for them to part. Let us then have an association of our own, and leave others to do as they please with the State Society.

Those who uphold the National Code have an unquestionable right to form one or many associations in affiliation with the National and State Associations. The sooner they do so the better for the honor of the profession and for the cultivation and advancement of the science of medicine. He was sorry to be obliged to disagree with his honored friend, Dr. Moore, for he did not think that the present formation of an association could justly be characterized as a hasty action. The National-Code party has had two years to reflect upon the course to be taken. This party has been defeated during two sessions of the State Society, and it will this year meet with the same fate. All have carefully considered the question; and if they are not now prepared to take final action they never will be and might as well give up the idea of forming the association if the preliminary steps to that end be not immediately taken. In conclusion, he said, "I fervently hope, Mr. Chairman, that Dr. Flint's preamble and resolution will be adopted to-night; and I have the honor to call upon you to close the discussion."

In closing the debate, the Chairman, Dr. DIDAMA, earnestly advocated the action proposed by Dr. Flint. No harm, he thought, could come from forming our organization to-

night. We can go to the State Society, enter our protest against the unfair and clandestine action of 1882, and ask that the National Code be restored. If, by some unexpected impulse of good judgment and kindly feeling, our appeal shall be heeded, then this association may be discontinued. But if the minority should persist in trampling on our rights—as we all believe they may—then, if we are men respecting ourselves and deserving the respect of our constituents, we shall re-assemble on Wednesday morning and end the fruitless and disgraceful wrangle of the past two years by finishing the good work we have so well begun this evening.

The motion to lay on the table was renewed and lost by a rising vote of 21 for tabling and 34 against.

Dr. FLINT's preamble and resolution, with the limitation as to the time of enforcement as provided in the resolution offered by Dr. Ferguson, was then adopted; the vote, on motion of Dr. Rochester, being declared unanimous.

Dr. T. B. REYNOLDS, of Saratoga Co., offered the following:

Resolved: That the objects of this Association shall be the cultivation and advancement of the science of medicine.

Carried unanimously.

Dr. GOULEY then addressed the Chairman as follows:

I wish to offer a resolution relating to a plan of organization, prepared some weeks ago, because many of us have, for sometime, been of opinion that the formation of a new association had become a necessity. This plan has been submitted to about twenty members, who have given it their entire approval and have advised its presentation to-night.

Resolved: That the following plan of organization be adopted:

1st. To facilitate the transaction of business, such as the selection of committees, the annual election of officers and of new members, etc., the State shall be divided into five geographical districts, to be called respectively, the 1st, or Northern District; the 2d, or Eastern District; the 3d, or Central District; the 4th, or Western District; and the 5th, or Southern District.

These districts shall comprise the sixty counties of the State, arranged as follows:

FIRST, OR NORTHERN DISTRICT.

Clinton, 30; Essex, 22; Franklin, 16; Hamilton, —; Herkimer, 29; Jefferson, 30; Lewis, 14; Oneida, 58; Oswego, 22; St. Lawrence, 13; Warren, 18. Total, 252

SECOND, OR EASTERN DISTRICT.

Albany, 39; Columbia, 15; Fulton, 9; Greene, 24; Montgomery, 16; Rensselaer, 74; Saratoga, 40; Schenectady, 10; Schoharie, 16; Washington, 12. Total, 255

THIRD, OR CENTRAL DISTRICT.

Broome, 31; Cayuga, 25; Chemung, 30; Chenango, 40; Cortland, 23; Delaware, 20; Madison, 21; Onondaga, 65; Otsego, 22; Schuyler, 16; Seneca, 22; Tioga, 19; Tompkins, 15. Total, 349

FOURTH, OR WESTERN DISTRICT.

Allegany, 15; Cattaraugus, 14; Chautauqua, 29; Erie, 120; Genessee, 16; Livingston, 15; Monroe, 49; Niagara, 28; Ontario, 30; Orleans, 18; Steuben, 18; Wayne, 27; Wyoming, 14; Yates, 11. Total, 404

FIFTH, OR SOUTHERN DISTRICT.

Dutchess, 46; Kings, 249; New York, 783; Orange, 20; Putnam, 9; Queens, 41; Richmond, 13; Rockland, 14; Suffolk, 22; Sullivan, 20; Ulster, 23; Westchester, 47.* Total, 1287

Grand Total, 2547

NOTE.* The figures following each County show the number of those in that County, whose applications for fellowship the Council is now authorized to act upon, if they are forthwith sent as required in the printed form.

2d. A Nominating Committee shall be created, to consist of two members from each of the above-named districts—elected by the representatives of each district—and one appointed at large by the Chair. In all eleven members.

3d. The Nominating Committee shall name, subject to the approval of the Association, a President and four Vice-Presidents—these five officers to come each from one of the five districts,—a Recording Secretary, a Corresponding Secretary and a Treasurer.

In addition, said Committee shall name two members from each district, who, together with the titular officers and one member appointed at large by the President-elect, shall constitute the Council, which shall manage the affairs of the Association.

The Nominating Committee shall suggest the time and place for holding the next session of the Association.

4th. The Council shall complete the organization, prepare a constitution and by-laws, in accord with this plan, to be presented at the next meeting of the Association, and file articles incorporating the New York State Medical Association and also County Associations as branches of said New York State Medical Association. The Council shall also assist the President in securing scientific contributions.

5th. In case no meeting of this Association be held prior to May, 1884, the Council shall appoint delegates to the National Association and to State Societies.

6th. The Council shall fill such vacancies as may occur in its body during the current year, except in the office of President and Vice-President.

7th. Ten members of the Council shall constitute a quorum.

8th. The initiation fee shall be five dollars, and the annual dues, three dollars.

9th. The code of ethics, which shall form an integral part of the by-laws of this Association, shall be as follows :

The same as that adopted by the American Medical Association.

10th. The Association shall hold annually one session, which shall last three days or more.

The above plan of organization was adopted unanimously.

By Dr. FERGUSON :

Resolved: That all physicians in the State of New York who are in good standing in the present county societies, and who subscribe to the code of ethics of this Association, can become members thereof upon paying the initiation fee and signing the constitution and by-laws.

Carried unanimously.

By Dr. ROCHESTER :

Resolved: That all questions relating to the admission of new members, prior to the permanent organization, shall be decided by the Council.

Carried unanimously.

By Dr. HYDE :

Resolved: That, after the formation of new County Associations as branches of this Association, the members of said County Associations may become members of the State Association by paying the initiation fee and signing the constitution and by-laws.

Carried unanimously.

Dr. FERGUSON then re-introduced his resolution concerning the attendance at the session of the State Society on Thursday evening for protest against the present code, and for the support of the National Code. Carried unanimously.

The convention adjourned at 11.30 P. M., to meet at 9 A. M., Wednesday, February 6th.*

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* As agreed on Monday, the members and delegates attended the meeting of the State Society on Tuesday night. The resolution of Dr. Didama was renewed by Dr. Moore, Dr. Didama being absent.

"Resolved, That all action taken at the annual meeting of 1882, in regard to changing the code of ethics be repealed, leaving the code to stand as it was before such action was taken."

Dr. T. F. ROCHESTER, of Buffalo, moved the adoption of this resolution; and, in making the motion, he said : I do it with the hope of restoring the unity, harmony and good feeling of the proudest society in the Union. I hope that the remonstrances which have been sent in from the County Medical Societies will not simply be tabled and no attention paid to them. That was done last year. I think that perhaps we all have given way too much to our personal feelings. I think that on both sides party-ties have been stronger than they should be and not in the interests of harmony. We should try to do what is best for the profession at large. I believe that

there is a very strong feeling in the profession against the existence of the so-called "New Code" of Ethics. If we go back to the time of its adoption, we find that when it was passed there were only seventy members present. Nevertheless it was legally passed.

At Cleveland, last year, the attempt was made to do what should have been done before the State Society took the position of seceding from the American Medical Association. The question as to whether any modification of the by-laws was necessary should have been brought before the American Medical Association. An attempt was made in that direction last year; but the motion would not be entertained for a moment, because this Society was in a state of rebellion. I do not believe that such a motion will be entertained so long as the "New Code" prevails; but I do believe that if this Code should be repealed and the National Code restored, the members of this Society could bring the matter before the American Medical Association, and it would be received and acted upon.

Dr. DIDAMA then entered the hall and made some remarks in advocacy of the resolution, in the interest of harmony, and for the good of the profession. He appealed to the sober second thought of the members and to their desire for the restoration of friendly intercourse. He sketched the peaceful condition of the Society prior to the unfortunate action of 1882. We looked forward to our annual meetings as to family reunions. We met as personal friends, we discussed scientific questions without acrimony, we gathered joyfully about the festive board, we parted reluctantly as brothers. The memory of our meeting did us good throughout the year. Now all this is changed. Angry altercation has taken the place of friendly debate; the Society is divided into two or three warring factions; and dissention has been established which may extend to a rupture of the Society and the conversion of old-time friends into permanent enemies. You all know the cause of this estrangement and bitterness. Two years ago, a committee of the Society, appointed solely to make suggestions regarding the Code of Ethics, took it upon themselves to report an entirely "New Code." This code was adopted. The news of its adoption was received by the profession generally with surprise and indignation. The indignation was increased when it came to be known that the meeting consisted of but seventy persons; that many of these had been informed of the proposed report of the committee, and invited to be present, while the great mass of the profession had not been notified; and that the "New Code" was forced through, the majority refusing to refer the matter to the American Medical Association, or to leave it open for examination by the Society until its next meeting.

They refused to postpone action even for a single night.

Forty of the sixty County Societies in the State hastened to record their disapproval of the action of the State Society, and to demand a repeal of the "New Code."

They sent protests to our meeting last year. Their petitions were spurned. The assertion was made that the County meetings were packed,

and that the real sentiment of the profession was largely in favor of the "New Code" or of no code at all.

To-day we are able to show, by the answers in the handwriting of the profession, that the adherents of the "New Code" form a minority in the State Society, and only about one-fifth of the five thousand regular physicians in the State.

And now, gentlemen who favor the "New Code" or no code, what do you propose to do? Can you afford to hold a position which the profession generally, in the State and out of the State, think you gained unfairly and by a sort of snap-judgment? You know that there has never been a moment since the meeting in 1882 when you could have repealed the National Code.

A few of you have discussed the question unceasingly in newspapers and medical journals and "symposia"; but you have not shaken the integrity of the profession. You still remain in a minority; you misrepresent the Society and the profession, and you know it.

You have brought the State Society into disrepute with our medical brethren throughout the Union and throughout all English-speaking countries.

To the extent of your power you have disfranchised us in a great National Association to which we are strongly attached. To the extent of your ability you have cut us off from affiliation with our medical brethren throughout the world.

By persistence in a course, which we of the majority regard as unfriendly, unfair and anti-republican, you have broken many a tie of friendship, and have brought this Society to the very verge of a permanent rupture.

And what great compensation have you gained for all the evil your course has wrought?

You have stricken from the National Code the truthful statement that we do not regard certain irregular practitioners as fit persons to meet us in consultation; while you are ready to admit, one and all of you, that you hold the principles and the practice of these very irregulars in the utmost contempt. This, and this only is your exceeding great reward!

And now, in closing, I make a final appeal to the justice and magnanimity of this Society.

I call upon the minority to consent to a restoration of the *status* existing prior to the meeting of 1882.

Then, if we choose, we can have a fair and friendly discussion of the subject on its merits.

Then we can carry our grievances, if we have any, to the American Medical Association and seek redress there. Let us bury the hatchet forever. Let the fires of friendship be rekindled. Let us rejoin hands in our efforts to uphold and advance the one only science of medicine—a science with which the interests of humanity are indissolubly connected.

The answer to these appeals for harmony and fair play was made by Dr. D. B. St. John Roosa, the spokesman of the opposition. It was characteristic. It had no one word indicating a desire for union or an intention to relinquish a control surreptitiously obtained. It was appropriately followed by a solid vote of the combined "New Code" and no code factions not to recede from their course of unwisdom and injustice.

Thus the last spark of hope for redress was extinguished in the breasts of the National Code party, and they went forward to complete their organization.

The New York State Medical Association met in adjourned session, at 9 A.M., Wednesday, Feb. 6, 1884.

Dr. Ward, the Secretary, being absent, Dr. E. D. Ferguson was appointed to act as Secretary.

The minutes of the first meeting were read and approved, after Dr. Hyde had been allowed to make a correction in the resolution offered by him in relation to the membership of the Association.

Dr. Gouley moved that the Council, when elected, be authorized to prepare the minutes for publication and for circulation among the loyal physicians of the State. Carried.

The members from the five districts then met in separate portions of the room, and, after consultation, presented the following list of names as the Nominating Committee, Dr. Flint, Sr., being appointed at large by the Chair.

1st District—Dr. Ira H. Abell, Antwerp, Jefferson Co.; Dr. L. C. Dodge, Rouse's Point, Clinton Co.

2d District—Dr. T. B. Reynolds, Saratoga Springs, Saratoga Co.; Dr. Thomas Wilson, Claverack, Columbia Co.

3d District—Dr. A. D. Head, Syracuse, Onondaga Co.; Dr. Caleb Green, Homer, Cortland Co.

4th District—Dr. Darwin Colvin, Clyde, Wayne Co.; Dr. Thos. F. Rochester, Buffalo, Erie Co.

5th District—Dr. D. Guernsey, Amenia, Dutchess Co.; Dr. J. W. S. Gouley, New York City and Co.

The Nominating Committee then retired into another room.

Dr. H. O. Jewett asked for information concerning the relation of this Association to the County societies.

The subject was informally discussed, and no action at present was favored, though the formation of County organizations in affiliation with this Association was considered desirable, and that, at a proper time, such measures should be taken as might be necessary.

Dr. Flint, Jr., tendered the hospitalities of New York City for the next meeting of the Association.

Dr. C. S. Wood, of New York County, offered a resolution that the invitation of Dr. Flint be accepted. Carried.

An informal expression of opinion was then requested as to the proper time for the next meeting of the Association, and finally a poll was taken of those who had preference as to the time of such meeting, which resulted in twenty-two favoring the third Tuesday in November; nine the first Tuesday in February, and one at some time just before the next meeting of the American Medical Association.

Upon motion of Dr. Flint, Jr., the third Tuesday in November of this year was appointed as the time for the next meeting of the Association.

The report of the Nominating Committee, now in order, was read.

Report of the Nominating Committee.

The Nominating Committee organized by electing Dr. Thos. F. Rochester, of Erie Co., Chairman, and Dr. Caleb Green, of Cortland Co., Secretary. The Committee then proceeded to the nomination of the following officers:

For President—Dr. H. D. Didama, Onondaga Co., 3d District.

For 1st District Vice-President—Dr. J. M. Crawe, Jefferson Co.

For 2d District Vice-President—Dr. Tabor B. Reynolds, Saratoga Co.

For 4th District Vice-President—Dr. B. L. Hovey, Monroe Co.

For 5th District Vice-President—Dr. N. C. Husted, Westchester Co.

For Recording Secretary—Dr. Caleb Green, Cortland Co.

For Corresponding Secretary—Dr. E. D. Ferguson, Rensslaer Co.

For Treasurer—Dr. John H. Hinton, New York Co.

For Councilors—1st Dist.—Dr. John P. Gray, Oneida Co.; Dr. Conant Sawyer, Essex Co.

2d. Dist.—Dr. J. W. Moore, Albany Co.; Dr. Thomas Wilson, Columbia Co.

3d Dist.—Dr. Frederick Hyde, Cortland Co.; Dr. Ely Van De Warker, Onondaga Co.

4th Dist.—Dr. E. M. Moore, Monroe Co.; Dr. M. W. Townsend, Genesee Co.

5th Dist.—Dr. E. R. Squibb, Kings Co.; Dr. A. Flint, Jr., New York Co.

On motion of Dr. E. M. Moore, the report of the Nominating Committee was accepted, and was then adopted unanimously.

Dr. Didama, after thanking the Association for the honor conferred, appointed Dr. J. W. S. Gouley as member of the Council at large.

Dr. A. D. Head moved that a committee be appointed by the Chair to prepare a proper form of certificate of fellowship and an appropriate seal for the Association. Carried

Dr. Ferguson moved that the Council be authorized to receive new members. Carried.

Dr. Van de Warker moved that a Committee of three be appointed to secure the co-operation of a medical journal in sympathy with the wishes and interests of this Association. Carried, and referred to the Council for the appointment of such committee.

Dr. H. B. Allen moved that the Corresponding Secretary be directed to furnish blank applications for fellowship. Carried.

A meeting of the Council was directed to be called immediately after the adjournment of the Association.

The Association then adjourned to meet in New York City on the third Tuesday in November, 1884.

E. D. Ferguson, *Acting Secretary.*

The following was presented by the Secretary for the signature of the members present; and authority was given to add the names of absent members and delegates and others who may wish to join as founders of the Association.

The undersigned agree to unite in the foundation of the New York State Medical Association, in accordance with the resolutions which were adopted on Monday the 4th and Wednesday the 6th of February, 1884.

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J. C. Hannon, Hoosick Falls.
J. B. Harvie, Troy.
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Total number of founders, 168.

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL.

The Council met immediately after the adjournment of the Association. Dr. Didama in the Chair, and Dr. Caleb Green acting as Secretary.

Present—Drs. Didama, Reynolds, Husted, Hinton, Ferguson, Green, Van De Warker, Flint, Jr., Townsend, Sawyer, E. M. Moore, Wilson, Hyde and Gouley.

On motion, the Chairman appointed Drs. A. Flint, Jr., J. W. S. Gouley and N. C. Husted as a Special Committee on the preparation of a Constitution and By-Laws for the Association, with instructions to report to the Council at its next meeting.

Dr. E. D. Ferguson was appointed a Committee, associating with himself three or four other members, to prepare and file Articles of Incorporation of the Association. Dr. Ferguson was also appointed as a Committee to prepare, print, and issue a circular and blank application for membership.

It was moved and seconded that the members of the Council, residing in each of the five districts, shall constitute, in such district, a committee on new members, and that all applications for membership shall be forwarded to any member of the Council in the district where the applicants reside.

Carried.

Moved and seconded that each member of the Council be, and is hereby, requested to solicit scientific contributions for the next meeting of the Association, and ask the authors to send the title of their papers to the Corresponding Secretary early in September next.

Carried.

It was moved by Dr. Van De Warker, and seconded, that each fellow, who may wish to read a paper to the Association, print a synopsis thereof for distribution to the fellows at the next meeting. Carried.

Dr. A. Flint, Jr., Dr. Van De Warker and Dr. Gouley were, on motion, appointed a committee to secure the co-operation of a medical journal in sympathy with the wishes and interests of this Association.

On motion, the Secretaries and Dr. Gouley were appointed a Committee on Publication, with instructions to prepare the proceedings of the present session of the Association and of the Council for immediate and extended distribution.

On motion of Dr. VAN DE WARKER, it was resolved that the members of this Association shall be designated Fellows. Carried.

Dr. E. M. Moore, Dr. A. Flint, Jr., and the Treasurer, Dr. J. H. Hinton, were appointed a committee to prepare a seal for the use of the Association, and also a form of certificate of fellowship.

It was resolved that the next meeting of the Council should take place in the City of Washington, D. C., at the time of the meeting of the American Medical Association in May next.

The Council then adjourned to meet in Washington.

CALEB GREEN, *Recording Secretary.*

NOTICE.—Those who may desire to be appointed delegates to the American Medical Association are requested to communicate with the Corresponding Secretary, Dr. E. D. Ferguson, Troy, Rensselaer Co., without delay.

Dr. Squibb, of Kings Co., being prevented by other pressing engagements from acting as a member of the Council, the vacancy has been filled by the appointment of Dr. Jos. C. Hutchison, of Kings Co.

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